(b) and (c) Payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and relief to pensioners costs the exchequer approximately Rs. 70 crores and Rs. 8 crores per annum respectively. Therefore, the question of payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowance has to be considered carefully with regard to their impact on the economic situation and the budget. The question of payment of this instalment is receiving the attention of the Government.

Amalgamation/merger of MMTC, NMDC and STC

2334. SHRI N. E. BALRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to amalgamate/merge the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC), the National Minerals Development Corporation (NMDC) and the State Trading Corporation (STC) or any two of these three Corporations together; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken to amalgamate/merge MMTC, NMDC and STC or any two of these three Corporations.

Losses suffered by the Indian Tourism Development Corporation

2335. SHRI N. E. BALRAM: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'Onlooker', a fortnightly (16-30 November, 1985) published from Bombay captioned 'ITDC: the Rs. 777.12 lakh bungle' and also to the news-item in the Illustrated Weekly of India (10-16 November, 1985) captioned 'ITDC in a Quagmire';

(b) if so, whether Government have set up a Fact Finding Committee to go into the instances of huge losses/irregularities in different departments/projects of ITDC as detailed in the above magazines;

(c) what steps Government have taken to fix responsibility on the officials responsible for such huge losses/irregularities and the steps taken to avoid recurrence of such instances in future;

(d) whether Government propose to get investigated the activities of ITDC from some Government agency or through some Parliamentary Committee; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The ITDC has reported that both the news-items are exaggerated. The allegations contained in said issue of the 'Onlooker' are subject matters of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India to whom necessary clarifications have been given. The ITDC Management also took up the matter with the Editor of the Illstrated Weekly who has agreed to issue suitable clarifications in due course.

Contracts signed at the India International Trade Fair

2336. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the India International Trade Fair held in New Delhi in November, 1985 has yielded a number of contracts between India and many other countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the contracts signed between India and other countries along with the amounts/involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) It will take some time to ascertain the details from the participating countries/organisations.